

AP Photo

WILLIAM SMART, facing camera, hugs a relative as the murder victim's family gathered at his grave in Derry immediately after the jury returned guilty verdicts against Pamela Smart.

Smart Family Visits Grave After Verdict

Father Says Headstone Will Be Changed

By PAT GROSSMITH
Union Leader Staff

EAST DERRY — A fresh layer of snow covered Gregory Smart's grave yesterday afternoon, disturbed only by footprints of a child leading to and then away from the base of the gravestone where three red roses and a pink carnation rested.

A heart with a rose arched through it is engraved in the upper left-hand corner of the pink-gray granite marker in Forest Hills Cemetery. The name "SMART" is on the right. At the bottom is etched, "A life that touches the hearts of others, lives on forever."

As lovely a monument as it is, it will be gone in the very near future. William Smart, Gregg's father, detests it.

"I don't like that side," he told the other 17 family members and friends who gathered at the grave at about 3 p.m.

"That stone's going because of the saying," he said, jerking his thumb back in the signal for "out" used by baseball umpires. "She (Pamela) picked that stone out."

"That stone's going because of the saying. She (Pamela) picked that stone out."

William Smart

By then, Mr. Smart had walked to the opposite side of the gravestone, the side where his son's name and the year of his birth and death are engraved.

The family arrived at the cemetery to pay tribute to the slain 24-year-old insurance agent just two hours after a Rockingham County Superior Court jury convicted Pamela Smart, 23, of accomplice and conspiracy to commit murder in the May 1 shooting death of her husband.

Mr. Smart and his wife, Judith, each hugged and kissed Gregg's brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. There were equal amounts of tears as smiles.

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Guilty! Guilty! Guilty!

By TAMI PLYLER
Union Leader Correspondent

EXETER — A cheer went up from Gregory Smart's friends and relatives yesterday as a 12-member jury pronounced Pamela Smart guilty of conspiring and helping three teens carry out the May 1 shooting death of her husband.

"Thank God," said Gregory Smart's father, William, after the jury announced its verdict. "Thank (Assistant Attorney General) Paul Maggiotto."

Pamela Smart, 23, dressed in a lavender and black plaid coat and black skirt, leaned forward in her seat as she waited for the jury to enter the courtroom after 13½ hours of deliberations.

Smart showed no emotion as foreman Norma Honor repeated "guilty" when asked the verdict reached on each of the three charges brought against the former SAU 21 media director.

Smart was found guilty of being an accomplice to first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and witness tampering.

According to testimony over the past few weeks, Smart began an affair William Flynn, then 15 years old, last February. According to Flynn, she seduced him with the movie "9½ Weeks" and racy lingerie, then manipulated him into killing her husband of less than a year.

Flynn said he fired a single hollow-point bullet into the head of Gregory Smart while Patrick "Pete" Randall held him down. Vance Lattime Jr. drove the getaway car and supplied the .38 caliber handgun used in the killing.

Following the announcement of the verdict, defense attorney Mark Sisti asked for an individual polling of the jurors, who one by one, replied "guilty."

Smart was immediately sentenced to life in prison, the mandatory sentence under state law.

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AP Photo

Day in Court

Pamela Smart walks down the corridor outside Courtroom 3 just minutes before the jury rendered three guilty verdicts against the former media services director.

Juror: Defendant's Words On Tape Led to Verdict

By NANCY MEERSMAN
Union Leader Staff

Pamela Smart's own words on tape are what led a Rockingham County jury to find her guilty, one juror said yesterday.

Most members of the jury were unavailable for comment or declined to comment after yesterday's guilty verdict in the Smart trial.

"All I can say is justice was done," said Charlotte Jefts, of Atkinson, one of the jurors who found Smart guilty yesterday of enticing three teenage boys to murder her husband, Gregory Smart.

In 12 hours of deliberation over three days, the jurors examined every possible argument the defense made in Smart's behalf, Jefts said, but when compared against the testimony and against police tapes of Smart discussing the murder, the arguments did not hold up. Above all, Smart's own words on tape incriminated her, said Jefts.

"There was definite, definite, definite proof she planned this, especially in the tapes," she said yesterday afternoon.

"We did everything, and I mean everything. We picked every word apart to see if there was a shadow of a doubt, to see if she was not guilty, and

"We picked every word apart to see if there was a shadow of a doubt, to see if she was not guilty, and we could not find anything. . . ."

Charlotte Jefts,
juror in trial of Pamela Smart

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we could not find anything. . . . There was no way we could possibly say she was innocent. There was just too much evidence against her," she said.

Jefts, at 75 the oldest juror at the trial, said the experience was emotionally traumatic. When it was her turn to say the word guilty, Mrs. Jefts "could hardly say the word, my heart was pounding so hard."

Jefts said she felt Smart, who met the Winnacunnet High School teens through her job as media director for SAU 21, had unleashed an unending tragedy.

"When you think of how many families this has

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Then the family joined hands, encircling the marker that was by then blanketed with yellow and red roses brought by the relatives.

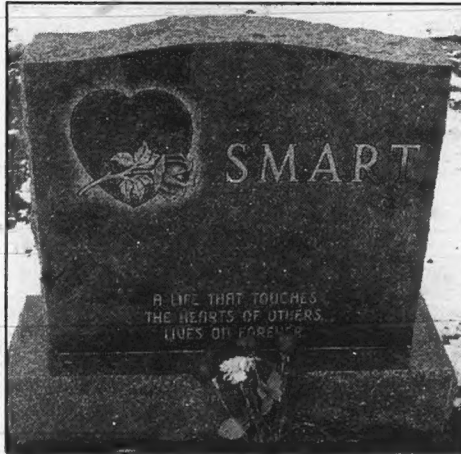
"Thank you so much for letting this happen," Mr. Smart said. "Now, finally, hopefully, Gregg will rest in peace. You know we are with you. We have been behind you and thank God the rest of us can go forward with a normal life."

Still hand-in-hand, they recited the Lord's Prayer and then, one-by-one, they departed.

Tom Perillo, Gregg's long-time friend who arrived at the cemetery with Mr. and Mrs. Smart, said they had stopped and bought champagne and a celebration of sorts was planned.

No celebrating will be done by Pamela Smart, now in a jail cell at the Women's State Prison in Goffstown, or her family who had predicted an acquittal and a party.

"There wasn't a doubt she'd be found guilty," said James Smart of Manchester, Gregory's uncle. "But it's a bittersweet victory, if you want to call it that, because it won't bring Gregg back."



George Naum/Union Leader

PAMELA SMART had a special saying etched into the gravestone she purchased for Gregory Smart. William Smart says the stone will be replaced.

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devastated, hers and Gregg's (the family's spelling of Gregory Smart's nickname) and all the young boys and their families, and Cecelia Pierce and her family. It just goes on and on," she said. "It has just ruined all these lives."

Jefts, asked for her impression of Smart, said, "She's two different people — she's a guttersnipe and on the other hand a very-well-educated, high-IQ person."

Throughout the trial, said Jefts, the expression on Pamela's face did not change. "She's extremely pretty, with a face like a cameo, lovely figure, lovely hair. She was just like a statue there. Even when the verdict came in, not an eyelash fluttered. Nothing, nothing, nothing," she said.

"I think she was schizophrenic. She was two people: one that teacher who had a good job and yet she came down to the level of those kids."

Jefts said on the other hand she felt a great deal of sympathy for William Flynn, who had been Pamela's 15-year-old lover and who testified, he fired the bullet into Gregg Smart's head.

"I can see where the motivation came from. He

was only 15 years old, and he should not ever have given in. But he was only 15 and he was madly in love with her," she said.

Jefts said she was very affected when Flynn was asked how long it took him to pull the trigger and he said it felt like a hundred years, but he loved Pamela and didn't want to lose her.

"It was so sad. I didn't want to look like I was crying, but my eyes were burning. She knew who to pick on, she was his first love. She lured him," Jefts said.

James Watts of Salem, an alternate who did not participate in the deliberations, said he was leaning toward a guilty verdict when he was released from the jury before deliberations began.

He said he was let down that after 2½ intense weeks he did not get to discuss the evidence with the other jurors.

"When the verdict came out, it did not surprise me," said Watts. "That was my leaning up to that point."

As for Pamela Smart, Watts said she was highly intelligent but emotionally undeveloped.

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mandatory sentence under state law for the accomplice charge.

A sentencing hearing will be held at a later date on the other two charges. Smart faces up to 15 years in prison on the conspiracy charge and up to seven years for the witness-tampering charge.

While William Smart and his wife, Judith, embraced after Superior Court Judge Douglas Gray announced the life sentence, John and Linda Wojas sat motionless in a front row of the courtroom.

Earlier in the day, John Wojas said his daughter is not the unfeeling woman depicted by the media.

"She's not a cold woman like they're trying to describe," he said. "She's a loving girl."

Wojas said he has received several calls from movie companies interested in his family's story, but said he was interested only in his daughter's fate.

"I want to take my daughter home," Wojas said. "I don't want to make any money."

Several hours later, Wojas watched as sheriff's deputies led his daughter from the courtroom to begin a life sentence at the state prison for women in Goffstown.

Linda Wojas' sister, Dorothy Kevelle, touched a tissue to her eyes and quietly cried as the Smart family cheered in the next aisle.

She alone sat with Mr. and Mrs. Wojas as the verdict was read.

As she left, she said the family was "very sad" at the outcome. "We shouldn't be judging each other," Kevelle said. "She was judged by the press. Please, just leave us alone."

Defense attorney Mark Sisti said yesterday afternoon he was disappointed with the jury's

verdict, but is looking forward to an appeal to the New Hampshire State Supreme Court.

"This is definitely not the end," he said.

Sisti said there are "about 50 specific grounds" on which to file the appeal. He said the fact the jury wasn't sequestered until the second day of deliberations would definitely be addressed, while the extensive media coverage would indirectly be addressed.

Sisti said he was very surprised at the verdict. "I thought we established reasonable doubt," he said. "It's not a very nice feeling to have this woman, whose fate was in the hands of the jury, be sent to prison for the rest of her life."

Maggiotto and co-prosecutor Diane Nicolosi both expressed relief that the trial was over. Maggiotto said he was very pleased by the outcome of the jury's deliberations and called Smart's testimony "preposterous."

"I think justice was done," he said. "There was no question in our minds the evidence was there."

"The fact she was sentenced to life in prison speaks for itself," Nicolosi said.

Maggiotto said it is up to Attorney General John Arnold whether to drop or pursue three more charges against Smart filed in Hillsborough County.

Smart is charged with asking a fellow inmate to have teen witness Cecelia Pierce, 16, killed.

Pierce secretly recorded conversations between herself and Smart that were crucial to the prosecution of the case.

"Apparently the tape recordings didn't help the defendant," Maggiotto said.

He said no charges will be filed against Pierce, who admit-

ted under oath that she helped Flynn try to locate a gun with which to kill Smart.

Gregory Smart's friend Tom Parilla said he was relieved at the guilty verdict. "It's the best thing that could have happened," he said. "It won't replace our friend, but that b--- will rot in jail."

Karen Knight, a friend of the Flynn family, said she was glad the three tense days of waiting were finally over. "I'm thankful the jury was able to realize the truth," she said. "There won't be another victim for her to manipulate. There couldn't be enough consecutive life sentences for what she's done."

Knight said Flynn's mother Elaine did not want to speak to the press on the advice of her attorney. Her son's sentencing is still pending, Knight noted.

But Knight said Flynn authorized a statement saying she knew all along the truth would come out.

According to Knight, "She said she's thankful the jury was able to see beyond Pam's lies and manipulation and she thanks God for that."

Knight said she visited William Flynn in prison yesterday after the verdict was reached. "Billy's confused," Knight said. "He's still just a kid and it's just sinking in that he was just used as a pawn."

Flynn, who lost his father in a car accident several years ago, was easy prey for the petite and attractive blonde he met at a Winnacunnet High School drug and alcohol awareness program, Knight said.

"Billy's not a very strong person," she said, noting that she believes Flynn still loves Smart. "He's having a very hard time with his feelings for her and what happened."